

**PATENT APPLICATION**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re the Application of:

ARCELLA et al

Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned

Serial No.: New Application

Examiner: Not yet assigned

Filed: February 25, 2002

Attorney Dkt. No.: 108910-00053

For: POROUS HYDROPHILIC MEMBRANES

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

February 25, 2002

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fees and initial examination of the application, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 3-6, 9-15, 17-19 and 21-23 as follows. A copy of the marked up original claims is attached to this response showing the changes as set forth in amended 37 CFR 1.121.

3. (Amended) Membranes having pores totally occluded to gases according to claim 1, containing an ionomer amount higher than about 30% by weight.

4. (Amended) Membranes having pores partially occluded to gases according to claim 1, containing an ionomer amount lower than about 20% by weight.